

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02
FAA-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02 SS-15
NSC-05 L-03 /107 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9161

S E C R E T MONTREAL 1079

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO
SUBJ: ICAO POSSIBLE REGIONAL REALIGNMENT OF LATIN AMERICA
CIVIL AVIATION COMMISSION

1. LONG DISCUSSION WITH MEXICO REP ACUNA ON SOCIAL OCCASION LED
TO HIS EXPRESSING CONCERN RE DISSENSION WITHIN LACAC ESPECIALLY:

A. CARIBBEAN STATES NOT JOINING;

B. OVERPOWERING INVOLVEMENT ARGENTINA AND ESPECIALLY BRAZIL;

C. GREAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OBJECTIVES/POLICIES BIG STATES
IN SOUTH AMERICA (ESPECIALLY ARGENTINA/BRAZIL), AND SMALL STATES OF
CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN. (USREP COMMENTED THAT THESE FACTORS
WERE EVIDENT AT LACAC ASSEMBLY/MONTEVIDEO).

2. FACETIOUSLY USREP SUGGESTED THAT A WISER APPROACH TO CAC MIGHT
HAVE BEEN A SEPARATE CAC FOR NORTH/CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN.
THIS LED TO UNANTICIPATED SERIOUS RESPONSE. HE JUMPED IN SAYING
THIS HAD ALWAYS BEEN HIS APPROACH AND WAS BEHIND HIS ADAMANT
PERSISTENT QUESTIONS/INTERVENTIONS IN COUNCIL FOR SIX YEARS,
OBJECTING TO REGIONAL REFERENCES ASSOCIATING MEXICO AND CENTRAL
AMERICA WITH SOUTH AMERICA. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ICAO

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REGIONAL OFFICE IN MEXICO CITY, IS ACCREDITED FOR NORTH AMERICA
AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING US, CANADA, MEXICO, CENTRAL
AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, AND THE LIMA OFFICE IS ACCREDITED
TO SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES PLUS PANAMA. FYI: MEXICO REP HAS
INDEED SEIZED EVERY OPPORTUNITY MINOR/MAJOR IN COUNCIL OVER
YEARS TO ASK POINTED SOMETIMES EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS RE
REGIONAL DIVISIONS AND SLIGHTING OF MEXICO CITY OFFICE ROLE.

END FYI

3. DISCUSSION SUGGESTED CAN/US/MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA ASSOCIATION IN A CAC, WITH POSSIBILITY SOME OR ALL CARIBBEAN INCLUSION. HE SUGGESTED WE DISCUSS MATTER IN GREATER DETAIL LATE JULY, THEN TALK WITH CAN INFORMALLY. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT TALK WITH CANADIAN COUNCIL MEMBER (BEDARD) UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BECAUSE "HE CANNOT BE TRUSTED" AND "NO ONE HAS ANY CONFIDENCE IN HIM." MEX REP SUGGESTED EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH CAN COMMISSIONER OR "SOMEONE FROM OTTAWA."

4. ACUNA SAID HE WAS IN DISFAVOR WITH THE FORMER DIR DIV AV MEXICO (TORRES) BUT HAS GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH NEW DGSA CENDEJAS JORGE WHO COULD BE INFLUENCED EASILY OVER NEXT FEW MONTHS WHILE NEW. HE WILL BE AT ICAO ASSEMBLY/MONTREAL/SEPTEMBER WHICH, ACUNA SAID, WOULD BE IDEAL TIME TO ARRANGE MEETING OF THOSE INTERESTED IF WE WISH TO PURSUE.

5. COMMENT: USREP HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT BUILD-UP OF TECHNICAL/ECONOMIC AVIATION REGIONALISM AND GEOGRAPHIC/LANGUAGE CAUCUSES IN COUNCIL. A.LA IS AN IMPORTANT BLOCK OF SIX (OUT OF 30) VOTES CONTROLLED ON MAJOR ISSUES BY LACAC POSITIONS. IF CUBA COMES ON COUNCIL, AS A LACAC MEMBER REPLACING TRINIDAD & TOBAGO OR IN ADDITION TO, THE GROUP BECOMES VERY FORMIDABLE. B. REGIONAL CAC'S ARE MORE AND MORE THE BASIS FOR REGULAR CAUCUSING AND COORDINATING POSITIONS ON COUNCIL ON ALL ISSUES.
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ECAC (5 - UK, FRANCE, SCANS, ITALY, GERMANY AND USUALLY CANADA FOLLOWING FRANCE); AFCAC (4 NIGERIA, EAST AFRICA, MADAGASCAR, SENEGAL -- USUALLY FOLLOWED BY MOROCCO AND LEBANON, AND SOMETIMES EGYPT); LACAC (6 -- ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA, T&T AND OFTEN FOLLOWED BY SPAIN). C. US USED TO HAVE GROUP OF RELIABLE SUPPORTERS: JAPAN, CENTRAL AMERICA, AUS, CANADA AND OFTEN EUROPE STATES. NO LONGER, AND EACH ISSUE MUST BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE CAUCUSES AND WITH EACH STATE, FROM A BASE OF ONE US VOTE.

D. REMOVING MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA FROM LACAC WOULD PROVIDE GREATER BALANCE IN COUNCIL. US WOULD ALSO HAVE OTHER AVIATION ADVANTAGES. A CAN/US/MEX/CENTRAL AMERICAN ALIGNMENT SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY THOUGHT THROUGH/ANALYZED BEFORE DISMISSING OUT OF HAND.

6. USREP WISHES DISCUSS DURING CONSULTATION JULY 1 FOR GUIDANCE RE ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MEXICO, OR "CHOPPING OFF" SUBJECT.
HARPER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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